

January 4, 2005

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District Health Receives More Flu Vaccine; Eligibility for Vaccination Expanded

January is not too late in the influenza season to receive a flu shot and South Central District Health has additional vaccine for those seeking a shot. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded the eligibility criteria for receiving influenza vaccine to include people 50 years of age and older, as well as out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of high-risk persons. This is in addition to the following priority groups specified by the CDC in October:

- All children aged 6-23 months.
- Children aged 2-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Adults aged 65 years and older.
- Persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions.
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season.
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Healthcare workers involved in direct patient care.
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children under 6 months of age.

The State of Idaho's Division of Health has purchased a total of 9,000 doses that were the balance of the CDC re-allocation process. Of the 9,000 doses of flu vaccine, 1,170 doses have been allocated to South Central Idaho and will be distributed through District Health offices. This vaccine will initially be made available to those in the high-risk priority groups. If there is little or no demand from this group, SCDH will expand the vaccine allocation to include people over 50 and contacts of high-risk persons.

"We are starting to see some influenza activity around the country and in Idaho," said Tom Machala, MPH, RN, Communicable Disease and Prevention Director for South Central District Health. "Remember, January is not too late for people to receive an influenza vaccination and develop immunity before the flu season peaks in February."

South Central District Health will charge an administration fee of \$8 for each influenza vaccination. Special vaccination clinics will be held in District Health offices on the following schedule:

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SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH INFLUENZA VACCINATION CLINICS

CITY	DATE / TIME	PLACE	CONTACT
Bellevue	Tuesday, Jan. 11 1 - 4 p.m. for influenza <i>Call for an appointment</i>	District Health Office 117 East Ash St.	Bellevue SCDH Office 788-4335
Burley	Thursday, Jan. 13 8 - 11 a.m. & 1 - 2:30 p.m. <i>Call for an appointment</i>	District Health Office 2311 Parke Ave., Unit 4	Burley SCDH Office 678-8221
Fairfield	Tuesday, Jan. 18 10 a.m. - Noon <i>Call for an appointment</i>	Camas Medical Clinic	Gooding SCDH Office 934-4477
Gooding	Tuesday, Jan. 11 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. & 4 - 5 p.m. <i>Call for an appointment</i>	District Health Office 145 7 th Avenue E.	Gooding SCDH Office 934-4477
Jerome	Thursday, Jan. 13 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. <i>Call for an appointment</i>	District Health Office 951 East Avenue H	Jerome SCDH Office 324-8838
Rupert	Thursday, Jan. 13 2 - 4 p.m. <i>Call for an appointment</i>	District Health Office 1218 9 th St., Ste. 15	Rupert SCDH Office 436-7185
Shoshone	Thursday, Jan. 6 4:30 - 6 p.m. <i>Call for an appointment</i>	District Health Office Christ Episcopal Church 104 West B St.	Gooding SCDH Office 934-4477
Twin Falls	Friday, Jan. 14 9 - 11:30 a.m. & 1 - 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. <i>Call for an appointment</i>	District Health Office 1020 Washington St. N. (CSI Campus)	Twin Falls SCDH Office 734-5900

Along with the state purchase of 9,000 doses, private healthcare providers, hospitals and long-term care facilities have ordered an additional 5,500 doses of vaccine for January delivery. Added together, almost 15,000 doses of influenza vaccine will be available in the state this month.

A shortage of influenza vaccine developed in early October when one of the major flu vaccine suppliers experienced manufacturing problems and was unable to supply vaccine. At that time, vaccine was restricted to those people most at risk of complications from influenza. Eligibility criteria have been expanded and, since influenza season usually lasts into April, there is still time for those wanting a shot to receive one and protect themselves from influenza.

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